

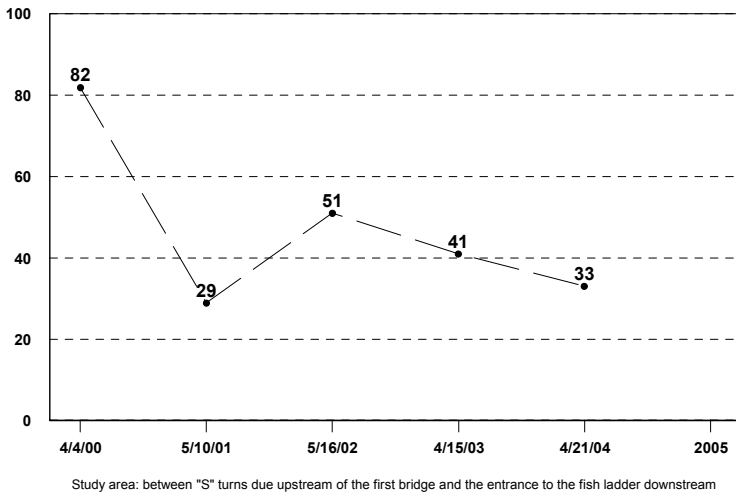
## 2004 STONEFLY EXOSKELETON COUNT FAUNTLEROY CREEK

Fourth-grade students from Arbor Heights Elementary School conducted the annual stonefly exoskeleton count on April 21. Exoskeleton sightings began in late March and the students did the count as soon thereafter as their schedule permitted.

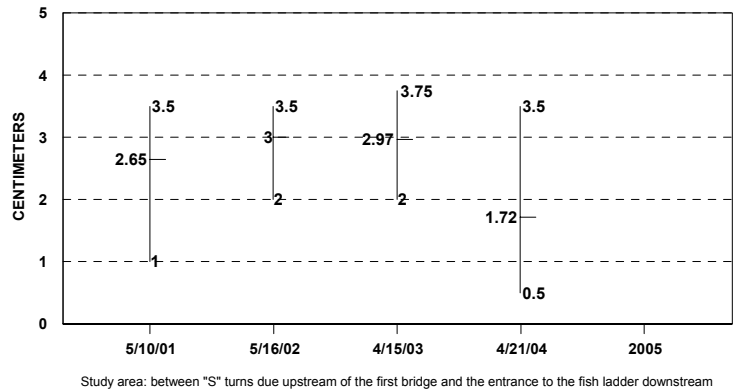
Research teams followed established protocol by counting all exoskeletons they could find on trees and bushes and on bridges, and other wood in the study area. Located in the lower creek, the study area is nourished by spawner carcasses and includes the channel segment where Seattle Public Utilities does macroinvertebrate sampling in the fall.

### FINDINGS

**NUMBER OF STONEFLY EXOSKELETONS  
FAUNTLEROY CREEK**



**LENGTH OF STONEFLY EXOSKELETONS  
TORSO RANGE AND AVERAGE  
FAUNTLEROY CREEK**



The total number of exoskeletons (33) was down for the second year in a row. Maximum length remained about the same. Several in the sample were quite small, however, which dropped the average to the lowest over the four years of measuring.

The fact that only a handful of coho spawners returned in 2002 and 2003 - depriving these and other macroinvertebrates of nutrients from decaying carcasses - may have contributed to the reduced count and the comparatively smaller size.

### OBSERVATIONS

The four bridges were the most popular with stoneflies; 21 left their exoskeletons there. Trees were next, with 10. Researchers found only two on bushes (both lady ferns). They didn't find any on rail fences.